**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF­­­­­­­­­ SHAWNEE, KANSAS**

**ADMINSTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20-002**

**ORDER IMPOSING COURT RESTRICTED OPERATIONS DUE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

 NOW, on this 30th day of March, 2020, the Court, being apprised of federal, state and local public health concerns related to COVID-19 coronavirus, enters the following orders:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 disease a pandemic. The President of the United States and the Governor of Kansas have since declared disaster emergencies. The Governor of Kansas has imposed a “Stay Home” Order effective March 30, 2020. Nonessential businesses are ordered closed. Although government offices are determined an essential business, the public is strongly discouraged from visiting city offices and to use alternative methods to contact city staff.

 In light of the COVID19 concerns and in light of the “Stay Home” Order, and in an attempt to remain consistent with Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-016, this Court finds it is in the best interests of court personnel, as well as members of the public, to reschedule all upcoming court dockets unless considered an emergency operation as defined by the Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-016 and any further orders that may be issued. Those dockets considered emergency dockets will be held by audio visual two-way communication, to the extent feasible. Also consistent with Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-016, once dockets resume, they may be held by audio or video conferencing, subject to COVID-19 considerations.

For purposes of this temporary order, court dockets will occur as determined on a week by week basis. All changes to all dockets will be posted on the City of Shawnee website. Reasonable attempts to notify Defendants and counsel will be made.

Effective upon publication of House Substitute for Senate Bill 102, and consistent with Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-016, this order suspends all deadlines and time limitations to bring a Defendant to trial established by K.S.A. 22-3402 and its amendments until further order of the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. This Court makes the finding that the Court is unavailable for trials at this point in time, and the next day available is as of yet unknown. Per K.S.A. 12-440, the earliest practical day set by the Court for trial is yet to be determined.

All officers of the City of Shawnee are hereby authorized to advise and release an individual if they encounter a municipal Defendant with an active failure to appear warrant for a City of Shawnee municipal offense. Said warrant shall remain active until otherwise served or recalled. If a defendant is placed into custody for a situation not related to a city of Shawnee municipal warrant but has an active Shawnee municipal warrant, and if the Shawnee municipal warrant is served, the arresting officer or the dispatcher shall immediately notify the municipal court judge by email so the warrant may be immediately addressed.

If a Defendant contacts the court clerk, either in person or by email, and requests to have a warrant recalled, said warrant shall be recalled and the Defendant shall be given a new date no earlier than June of 2020. The warrant recall fee shall be added to the case and may be paid at a later date if the Defendant is unable to pay the fee at the time of the recall.

This Order shall be effective immediately and remain in effect until otherwise rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Karen L. Torline, Municipal Court Judge